



Elevenmile Fire Update - August 31, 2015

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August 31, 2015 – 8 a.m.

Current Situation: The moisture, cloud cover and cool temperatures yesterday allowed firefighters to increase containment by an additional six percent, primarily along the southern edge of the fire where an anchor point was established.

Fire is backing down to the south of Squaw Creek. Firefighters from the Meadows Spike Base will spend several shifts in the steep, heavily timbered area to construct direct handline.

An additional 89 firefighters arrived yesterday in the form of four handcrews and an additional engine. These resources will be inserted along the jagged edge of the eastern perimeter, close to the Custer Motorway where they will bring fire down the slope to enforce the natural containment line of the Custer Motorway. To gain more efficient access to the Yankee Fork area, they will also work to open the road. Indirect line construction that will tie the Challis Creek and the old Lodgepole Fire burn scar together will continue for the next several shifts. This contingency is put in place to protect the Mosquito Flat area.

The northern perimeter of the fire will continue to burn towards the River of No Return Wilderness. This area has heavy dead timber with many spot fires, and is too steep to staff. It will be monitored by air and allowed to burn as no values are currently at risk.

An additional spike camp will be installed today near Bonanza to reduce the amount of exposure firefighters have while driving.

Clear weather will allow aircraft a full shift of flight time today. A radio repeater will be installed to improve radio communication early in the day. Helicopters will then be able to support firefighters with slinging equipment in and providing bucket drops should fire activity pick up.

Structure assessments in the Bayhorse, Garden Creek and Custer areas were completed Sunday. These same crews will use that information to develop a structure protection plan in the event the fire moves into those areas. The Bayhorse Ghost Town, Yankee Fork Gold Dredge and Custer Historical sites are still open to the public.

Weather: High pressure today will bring mostly sunny skies and seasonable weather to the forest. Humidity will drop during the day, which may increase fire behavior slightly.

Public Meeting: There will be a public meeting at the Challis Middle School Auditorium to discuss the Eleven Mile Fire on Tuesday, September 1st at 6:00 p.m. Everyone is welcome to attend.

Area Fire Closures: *An Emergency Area Closure is in effect and includes the following roads, campgrounds and all areas within to provide protection to forest visitors. The following roads are closed: Bayhorse Road (#40051); Trealar Creek Road, including the Squaw Creek Rd. (#40045); Custer Motor Way (#40070) at Five Mile Creek & Junction with Garden Creek Road (#400901); Kinnikinic Creek Road (#40053); Mill Creek Campground; Mosquito Flat Campground. Sleeping Deer Road (#40086) is OPEN*

Location: 17 miles west of Challis

Start Date: August 24

Cause: Lightning

Fire Size: 9,641 acres

Percent Contained: 10%

Total Personnel: 472

Resources:

- Crews: 12
- Helicopters: 4
- Engines: 16